
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

23 March 2023

Hazem Gabr
Southern California Edison
2244 Walnut Grove Avenue
Rosemead, CA 91770

ORDER AMENDING NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY; GENERAL SECTION 401 WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION ORDER REQUIREMENTS; SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON, BIG CREEK EMERGENCY DEBRIS FLOW RESPONSE DAMS 5 AND 6 PROJECT (WDID NO. 5B10CR00119A1), FRESNO COUNTY

This Order responds to the 16 February 2023 request for an amendment of the Big Creek Emergency Debris Flow Response Dams 5 and 6 (Project) Section 401 Water Quality Certification (WDID No. 5B10CR00119). The original Water Quality Certification (Certification) was issued on 29 September 2022. The requested amendment is hereby approved. The original Certification is therefore amended as described below. Please attach this document to the original Certification.

This amendment is not valid until and unless an amendment to the Section 404 Permit with equivalent modifications is approved by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) or it is otherwise determined by USACE that an amendment of the 404 Permit is unnecessary.

AMENDMENT:

Southern California Edison (hereinafter Permittee) is requesting an amendment to revise the quantity of temporary impacts to lake habitat (reservoir). Specifically, the additional impacts are 0.12 acre/600 cubic yards of temporary impacts for the Dam 6 reservoir in order to maintain operation of the Dam 6 reservoir.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

A large volume of sediment and debris has collected in front of the Dam 6 low-level outlet valves (LLOVs). The Permittee will cycle the LLOVs to evaluate the condition of each gate to drain the reservoir. The impoundment will remain drained for a few days up to a week while visual assessments are conducted. Targeted clamshell removal of sediment in front of the upstream gates is needed to observe upstream LLOV gates; there is a permanent/existing crane mounted at the center of the dam for performing this type of operation. After removal of blockage, the reservoir will be re-filled and testing of the LLOVs will be performed before resuming normal operations. Once the forebay is filled, Dam 6 would begin to spill and will be allowed to have flows overtop (estimated at 800 cfs for at least 24 hours; however, spill is anticipated to continue for several days)

During peak runoff, SCE may also need to operate the LLOVs to prevent further accumulation or blockages in front of the LLOV gates.

The Project will temporarily impact 2.17 acres / 1,374 linear feet of waters of the United States

CENTRAL VALLEY REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD CONTACT:

Brandon Salazar, Water Resource Control Engineer
1685 E Street
Fresno, CA 93706
Brandon.Salazar@waterboards.ca.gov
(559) 445-6278

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION:

I hereby issue an Order amending the existing Clean Water Act, Section 401 Technically Conditioned Water Quality Certification for the Big Creek Emergency Debris Flow Response Dams 5 and 6 Project (WDID#5B10CR00119A1). All other conditions and provisions of the original Water Quality Certification and any previously approved amendments remain in full force and effect, except as modified based on the conditions of this Order. Failure to comply with the terms and conditions of the original Water Quality Certification, previously approved amendments, or of this Order may result in suspension or revocation of the Water Quality Certification.

Original Signed by Clay L. Rodgers for:

Patrick Pulupa
Executive Officer

cc: [Via email only]

Kathy Norton
United States Army Corps of Engineers
Sacramento District Headquarters
Regulatory Division
SPKRegulatoryMailbox@usace.army.mil

United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region 9
R9cwa401@epa.gov

Patricia Cole
United States Fish & Wildlife Service
patricia_cole@fws.gov

ccs Continued Next Page:

California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Region 4
R4LSA@wildlife.ca.gov

CWA Section 401 WQC Program
Division of Water Quality
State Water Resources Control Board
Stateboard401@waterboards.ca.gov

Jason Lambert
Southern California Edison
jason.lambert@sce.com